

Mentor tackling flooding

NH
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■ Consultant asked to come up with answers, solutions

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Weeks of investigation into the Feb. 28 storm and related flooding is prompting Mentor administrators to seek a more in-depth look at the matter.

The administration is requesting that CT Consultants provide a comprehensive study proposal to address sanitary sewer backups and potential stormwater projects that could improve or minimize flooding occurrences. Once the cost is known, city officials will determine whether to go forward with the study.

An estimated 270 Mentor properties suffered flood damage after the storm's heavy rains running off of frozen ground combined with excessive snow melt, leading to the closure of schools and some major city roads. The major-

ity of complaints came in from Ward 3 and most of those involved sanitary sewer backups.

"We're looking at the areas that have problems and evaluating those areas individually," City Manager Ken Filipiak said. "The only thing that's common about them is it rained really hard and there was too much water in the system. What we're trying to find out is why some areas flooded and others didn't. ... The frustrating thing is people want to hear there is one fix and there isn't."

The comprehensive approach likely will involve additional flow monitoring and assessing whether there is adequate system capacity, as well as groundwater monitoring, related to the water table. The sanitary system profile — its depth — in relation to basement flooding also might warrant further review, Filipiak said.

"We have a pretty good idea of the nature of most of the areas, but it will test out our theories," he said of the study.

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**For more on the flooding,
go to News-Herald.com**



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Potential solutions could involve public improvements and/or simply educating the public on how to lower the risk of flooding on their properties, he said.

City Engineer Dave Swiger continues to meet with Lake County Utilities officials to analyze the situation. The county's cooperation is needed because it owns and maintains the wastewater system serving the city.

Swiger noted that, a couple of years ago, the county conducted testing in the Bellflower Road/Palmerston Drive area and found a higher flow.

A \$750,000 project was undertaken to install a liner in a third of the sewer main in the flood-prone area.

"It did improve the situation somewhat," Swiger said. "They did have backups in that same area during the Feb. 28 storm. It's possible the backups could have been more severe."

Lake County Utilities Executive Director Rick Martin said Phase II of the Bellflower area sanitary sewer improvement —

from St. James Drive to Brooks Boulevard — is planned in July. A larger pipe will be installed at a projected cost of \$201,500, \$48,000 of which will be covered by a state grant and \$50,000 by a loan.

Sometimes the additional flow stems from leaky joints in the lateral pipes to the homes, and the homeowner is responsible for their maintenance, Martin said.

"We don't have a lot of jurisdiction to get those fixed," he said, adding that his department is planning public informational meetings to educate property owners about things that can be done to remediate improper connections.

Lake County residents can receive a free survey of their home to determine unnecessary water in their sanitary sewer system, either by calling 440-350-2652 or going online to www.lakecountyohio.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.lakecountyohio.gov/utilities. Click on the "Water in your basement?" link in the lower left corner. A survey is at the top of that page and residents can make an appointment for a visit.

Lost Nation valve ^{NH} to be replaced 4-15-11

The Lake County Department of Utilities will replace a main line valve on Lost Nation Road in Willoughby beginning at 6 a.m. Sunday.

Because of this replacement some residents may be without water service for about eight hours. Streets involved will be Kennedy Parkway and Lost Nation Road between Courtland Drive and Ninadell Avenue. Affected complexes include Two Town Creek, The Hamlets and Parkway Apartments.

It is recommended affected residents have water in containers available for household and personal use. Water for drinking and cooking purposes should be boiled (at running boil) for at least one minute.

For details, call 440-918-3416 during business hours or 440-918-3420 after hours.